



The Honorable John Ensign
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

July 23, 2007

Re: Support for Repeal of Medicare Outpatient Therapy Caps (S. 450)

Dear Senator Ensign:

The undersigned members of the Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation (CPR) write to state our strong support for the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act (S.450), legislation to repeal Medicare's arbitrary cap on outpatient therapy services.

CPR is a coalition of national consumer, clinician, and membership organizations with the goal of preserving access to appropriate rehabilitation services so that individuals with disabilities, injuries, and chronic conditions may regain and/or maintain their maximum level of independent function.

Many individuals with disabilities and chronic conditions depend on outpatient therapy at appropriate levels to regain or maintain their health and independence. However, under current statute, Medicare places a monetary cap on outpatient physical therapy and speech language pathology, as well as occupational therapy. Although the cap may allow for the necessary level of services for some individuals, ironically, those with the most significant disabilities and the greatest need for outpatient therapy services will be harmed the most if the caps are permitted to be fully implemented.

Since these caps were established in 1997, Congress has enacted a series of moratoria and, more recently, an exceptions process for those individuals who need more therapy than the cap permits. However, the current exception process expires on December 31, 2007, and without legislation to finally remove the outpatient therapy caps from statute, they will continue to threaten access and limit independent function for individuals with significant need.

We thank you for your commitment to this important legislation and look forward to working with you toward its enactment. Please contact Emily Niederman with CPR at (202) 349-4290 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Heart Association

American Physical Therapy Association

American Occupational Therapy Association

American Therapeutic Recreation Association

Amputee Coalition of America

ACCSES

Brain Injury Association of America

Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc

Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation

Easter Seals

Goodwill Industries

Nation Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics

National Association of Social Workers

National Council on Independent Living

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

National Spinal Cord Injury Association

National Stroke Association

Paralyzed Veterans of America

The Arc of the United States

United Cerebral Palsy

United Spinal Association

CC: The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable Charles Grassley